

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF OKLAHOMA**

TNT CRANE & RIGGING, INC.,	)	
	)	
Plaintiff,	)	
	)	
v.	)	Case No. CIV-23-496-SLP
	)	
TOTAL DEMOLITION SERVICES, LLC,	)	
	)	
Defendant.	)	

**ORDER**

The record reflects that on June 27, 2023, Defendant filed its Answer [Doc. No. 9]. Thereafter, on July 11, 2023, Defendant filed a document headed “Counterclaim” [Doc. No. 15]. A counterclaim is not a stand-alone pleading, but must be stated within a pleading enumerated under Fed. R. Civ. P. 7(a). *See, e.g., Crete Carrier Corp. v. Sullivan & Sons, Inc.*, No. CV-ELH-21-328, 2022 WL 313865 at \*6 (D. Md. Feb. 1, 2022); *Meierhenry Sargent, LLP v. Williams*, No. CIV-16-4180, 2019 WL 2105986 at \*4 (D.S.D. May 14, 2019) (accord, collecting cases); *KAABOOWorks Servs., LLC v. PilsI*, No. 17-cv-02530-CMA-KLM, 2019 WL 1979927 at \*4 (D. Colo. May 3, 2019) (“[A] ‘counterclaim’] is not listed in Rule 7(a); thus, because ‘only’ the listed pleadings are allowed, a party may not file a counterclaim by itself as its own pleading.”). Accordingly, the Clerk of Court is directed to STRIKE the Counterclaim. If Defendant intends to pursue a counterclaim, it must seek leave to amend its Answer.

IT IS SO ORDERED this 27th day of July, 2023.



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**SCOTT L. PALK**  
**UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE**